

If Democrats Controlled the House...

A Weekly Taste of Their Legislative Agenda

November 9, 2012



What sort of legislation might Democrats enact if they control the House? There is little need to speculate—just look at what they are introducing this Congress while in the minority. Below is another example of a bill the Democrats might try to move if given the opportunity.

Proposal: H.R. 3425, Pathways Back to Work Act

Sponsor: Rep. George Miller (D-CA)

Summary: This legislation would establish a federal “Pathways Back to Work” fund with an initial \$5 Billion appropriation. This fund would be used to provide grants to create employment for unemployed and underemployed adults, and to provide employment opportunities to low-income youth.

Problems with the Bill: This legislation operates under two assumptions: first, that we will be able to spend our way out of this situation, and second, that the American taxpayer should trust the Democrat ideas on how to do so.

Addressing the second assumption first, it should be difficult to trust these liberal, federally-based employment solutions with any level of confidence. The suggestion above is derived from the same mindset which urged the passage of a hideously expensive stimulus package to supposedly [prevent the rise of unemployment](#). The failure of the stimulus package, a monument to the hubris of the federal government, should provide considerable caution against the liberal method of economic revival. However, the worst aspect of this type of legislation is not simply that it is ineffective. The most damning characteristic of these ill-advised policies is that they provide failure with a price tag, driving us further into debt and deeper into long-term financial problems.

This is the irony of suggestions of this nature: they are apparently intended to improve our economic situation, and yet they attempt to do so by burying future generations in debt in order to fund ineffective programs now. In other words, they fund programs which *might* (or, more likely, might not) improve the nation’s current economic outlook while *definitely* providing some level of economic hardship down the road. If the previous and current stimulus policies have not improved the economy, the solution is not to attempt to mask this failure with repeated attempts at the same failed method.

Reminder: RSC staffers and interns are encouraged to send other examples of questionable legislation to Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov.